

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 3-17, and have cancelled claims 2 and 18-24. Claims 1 and 3-17 are presently pending in the application.

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Quoc Hoang for his thorough search and review of the prior-art, his careful consideration and examination of the present application and claims, and his indication that claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9 and 10 contain allowable subject matter. In particular, the Examiner stated that claim 1 is allowed and that claims 3-5, 7, 9 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claims 3-5, 7, 9 and 10 to include all of the limitations of the corresponding base claims and any intervening claims, and thus submit that these claims are allowable.

Regarding the Office Action's objection to claims 2-17 and suggestion that the "passivation layer" in claim 2 be amended to recite instead a "glass passivation layer," Applicants have followed this suggestion by incorporating the suggested language into objected-to claims. Accordingly, it is requested that the objection to the claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Regarding the Office Action's rejection of claims 2, 6, 8 and 11-17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,702,980), Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection. However, in an effort to expedite the prosecution of the present application, claim 2 has been cancelled and claims 6, 8 and 11-17 have been amended to depend from claim 3, which was indicated to contain allowable subject matter and which has been amended to include all of the limitations of the corresponding base claim. Accordingly, the rejected claims are not anticipated by Yu et al. under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. § 102.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of same is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned with any questions

Respectfully submitted,



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